

Based on what was spent last year, as well as the estimated amount of revenue, county staff can begin constructing a budget for the coming year. Once the draft budget is completed, it is presented to the county commissioners for approval. With the help of citizen input, the Santa Rosa County Board of Commissioners vote during public budget meetings, usually beginning in July, to approve, reject or ask for a revised department budget.

Budget Execution

After the budget is approved and the fiscal year has started, we execute the budget and perform the duties of providing services to residents. Throughout the fiscal year, we continue using the funds approved in the budget. From time to time, budgets need to be changed to account for unknowns. At that time, a budget modification request is made. When approved on the director and county administrator level, the request moves up to the board of county commissioners for approval or denial.

Year-end Analysis

After October 30, which should allow all the outstanding orders from the prior year to be filled and paid, the county begins to analyze how well we performed in the previous fiscal year. Were the personnel expenses predicted accurately? Did rising fuel prices affect the budget? Did a disaster happen that required unexpected cleanup? The year-end analysis shows what needs to be done differently in the next year and helps to build its budget for the coming year.

The next fact sheet, titled “Where Does the Money Come From” addresses the general sources of revenue under the direction of local elected officials.

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